

---

# Media Release

---

**For Immediate Release: August 4, 2008**

## **Children Services Begins Alternative Response**

On Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, Franklin County Children Services will launch a new pilot program of family engagement and assessment called Alternative Response (AR).

The Alternative Response model allows caseworkers flexibility in their approach to assessing and providing services to families who have abuse and neglect allegations. While serious cases of child maltreatment will continue to have traditional investigations, other less severe incidents may be assigned to the alternative response model or track.

The alternate model will allow the agency to look at the needs of the child and family and offer services without a formal investigation that may result in a disposition of abuse or neglect. Thanks to cooperation with community partners, families will also be linked to needed services much sooner in the process. Research has shown that Alternative Response results in increased child safety, increased family involvement and increased family satisfaction.

According to Eric Fenner, Children Services executive director, Alternative Response fits with the agency's goal of keeping families together. *"AR is a service model that has successfully worked in other states and aligns with our goal of protecting children by strengthening families."* said Fenner.

Franklin County Children Services is one of 10 Ohio counties selected to participate in the innovative Ohio Alternative Response Pilot Project.

The pilot project was authorized by the Ohio General Assembly last year and is a result of a joint effort by the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

In addition to Franklin County, other pilot counties are Clark, Fairfield, Green, Guernsey, Licking, Lucas, Ross, Trumbull and Tuscarawas.

##

For further  
information  
contact  
**Doris  
Calloway  
Moore**  
**614-275-2521**